

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2485

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 6, 2000

Referred to the Committee on Resources

AN ACT

To direct the Secretary of the Interior to provide assistance in planning and constructing a regional heritage center in Calais, Maine.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Saint Croix Island
5 Heritage Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

2 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

3 (1) Saint Croix Island is located in the Saint
4 Croix River, a river that is the boundary between
5 the State of Maine and Canada;

6 (2) the Island is the only international historic
7 site in the National Park System;

8 (3) in 1604, French nobleman Pierre Dugua
9 Sieur de Mons, accompanied by a courageous group
10 of adventurers that included Samuel Champlain,
11 landed on the Island and began the construction of
12 a settlement;

13 (4) the French settlement on the Island in
14 1604 and 1605 was the initial site of the first per-
15 manent settlement in the New World, predating the
16 English settlement of 1607 at Jamestown, Virginia;

17 (5) many people view the expedition that settled
18 on the Island in 1604 as the beginning of the Aca-
19 dian culture in North America;

20 (6) in October, 1998, the National Park Service
21 completed a general management plan to manage
22 and interpret the Saint Croix Island International
23 Historic Site;

24 (7) the plan addresses a variety of management
25 alternatives, and concludes that the best manage-
26 ment strategy entails developing an interpretive trail

1 and ranger station at Red Beach, Maine, and a re-
2 gional heritage center in downtown Calais, Maine, in
3 cooperation with Federal, State, and local agencies;

4 (8) a 1982 memorandum of understanding,
5 signed by the Department of the Interior and the
6 Canadian Department for the Environment, outlines
7 a cooperative program to commemorate the inter-
8 national heritage of the Saint Croix Island site and
9 specifically to prepare for the 400th anniversary of
10 the settlement in 2004; and

11 (9) only 4 years remain before the 400th anni-
12 versary of the settlement at Saint Croix Island, an
13 occasion that should be appropriately commemo-
14 rated.

15 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to direct
16 the Secretary of the Interior to take all necessary and ap-
17 propriate steps to work with Federal, State, and local
18 agencies, historical societies, and nonprofit organizations
19 to facilitate the development of a regional heritage center
20 in downtown Calais, Maine before the 400th anniversary
21 of the settlement of Saint Croix Island.

22 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

23 In this Act:

1 (1) ISLAND.—The term “Island” means Saint
 2 Croix Island, located in the Saint Croix River, be-
 3 tween Canada and the State of Maine.

4 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
 5 the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Di-
 6 rector of the National Park Service.

7 **SEC. 4. SAINT CROIX ISLAND REGIONAL HERITAGE CEN-**
 8 **TER.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide as-
 10 sistance in planning, constructing, and operating a re-
 11 gional heritage center in downtown Calais, Maine, to fa-
 12 cilitate the management and interpretation of the Saint
 13 Croix Island International Historic Site.

14 (b) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—To carry out sub-
 15 section (a), in administering the Saint Croix Island Inter-
 16 national Historic Site, the Secretary may enter into coop-
 17 erative agreements under appropriate terms and condi-
 18 tions with other Federal agencies, State and local agencies
 19 and nonprofit organizations—

20 (1) to provide exhibits, interpretive services (in-
 21 cluding employing individuals to provide such serv-
 22 ices), and technical assistance;

23 (2) to conduct activities that facilitate the dis-
 24 semination of information relating to the Saint Croix
 25 Island International Historic Site;

1 (3) to provide financial assistance for the con-
 2 struction of the regional heritage center in exchange
 3 for space in the center that is sufficient to interpret
 4 the Saint Croix Island International Historic Site;
 5 and

6 (4) to assist with the operation and mainte-
 7 nance of the regional heritage center.

8 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

9 (a) DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be
 11 appropriated to carry out this Act (including the de-
 12 sign and construction of the regional heritage cen-
 13 ter) \$2,000,000.

14 (2) EXPENDITURE.—Paragraph (1) authorizes
 15 funds to be appropriated on the condition that any
 16 expenditure of those funds shall be matched on a
 17 dollar-for-dollar basis by funds from non-Federal
 18 sources.

19 (b) OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE.—There are au-
 20 thorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary
 21 to maintain and operate interpretive exhibits in the re-
 22 gional heritage center.

Passed the Senate October 5 (legislative day, Sep-
 tember 22), 2000.

Attest:

GARY SISCO,
Secretary.